



Renda Broadcasting Corporation wants to make sure that you and your family is safe and prepared during the 2010 Hurricane Season. Print off these checklists to help gather the necessary information and supplies that you would need before, during, and after a hurricane.

## BEFORE THE STORM

### DEVELOPING A FAMILY PLAN

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- Discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family.** Know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding, and wind.
- Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each hurricane hazard.** In certain circumstances, the safest areas may not be your home but within your community.
- Determine escape routes from your home and places to meet.** These should be measured in tens of miles rather than hundreds of miles.
- Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact, so all of your family members have a single point of contact.**
- Make a plan now for what to do with your pets if you need to evacuate.** (See *Prepare For Your Pet.*)
- Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones.** Make sure your children know how and when to call 911.
- Check your insurance coverage.** Flood damage is not usually covered by homeowner's insurance.
- Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a Disaster Supply Kit.** (See *Create a Disaster Supply Kit.*)
- Use a NOAA weather radio.** Remember to replace the batteries every six months.
- Take First Aid, CPR, and disaster preparedness classes.**

### CREATE A DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

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- Water.** At least one gallon per person for 3-7 days.
- Food.** At least enough for 3-7 days.
  - Nonperishable packaged or canned foods and juices.
  - Foods for the infant or elderly.
  - Snack foods.
  - Manual can opener.
  - Cooking tools and fuel.
  - Disposable plates and utensils.
- Blankets and pillows.**
- Clothing.** Seasonal, rain gear, and sturdy shoes.
- First Aid Kit, medicines, and prescription drugs.**
- Special needs items for infants and the elderly.**
- Toiletries, hygiene items, and wet wipes.**
- Flashlights.**
- Battery operated radio.**

- Batteries.** Sized for flashlights, radios, and any medical equipment needed.
- Cash.** Banks and ATMs may not be open or available for extended periods.
- Keys.**
- Toys, books, and games.**
- Important documents.** Store documents such as insurance papers, medical records, bank account numbers, social security cards, and any other important paperwork in a waterproof container.
- Tools.**
- Gas.** Make sure all vehicles are full of gas before the storm.
- Pet care items.** Such as proper identification, immunization records, medications, food, a carrier or cage, muzzle, and a leash.

## PLAN FOR AN EVACUATION

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**Develop a family hurricane preparedness plan before an actual storm threatens your area.** If your family hurricane preparedness plan includes evacuation to a safer location for any of the reasons specified within this web site, then it is important to consider the following points.

- If ordered to evacuate, do not wait or delay your departure.** If possible, leave before local officials issue an evacuation order for your area. Even a slight delay in starting your evacuation will result in significantly longer travel times as traffic worsens.
- Select an evacuation destination that is nearest to your home, preferably in the same county or at least minimize the distance over which you must travel in order to reach your intended shelter location.** In choosing your destination, keep in mind that the hotels and other sheltering options in most inland metropolitan areas are likely to be filled very quickly in a large, multicounty hurricane evacuation event.
- If you decide to evacuate to another county or region, be prepared to wait in traffic.** The large number of people in this state who must evacuate during a hurricane will probably cause massive delays and major congestion along most designated evacuation routes. The larger the storm, the greater the probability of traffic jams and extended travel times.
- If possible, make arrangements to stay with a friend or relative who resides closest to your home and who will not have to evacuate.** Discuss with your intended host the details of your family evacuation plan well before the beginning of hurricane season.
- If a hotel or motel is your final intended destination during an evacuation, make reservations before you leave.** Most hotels and motels will fill quickly once evacuations begin. The longer you wait to make reservations, even if an official evacuation order has not been issued for your area or county, the less likely you are to find hotel or motel room vacancies, especially along Interstate highways and in major metropolitan areas.
- If you are unable to stay with friends or family and no hotels or motels are available, then as a last resort go to a shelter.** Remember, shelters are not designed for comfort and do not usually accept pets. Bring your disaster supply kit with you to the shelter.

## PREPARE YOUR HOME

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**If you are asked to evacuate, you should do so without delay.** But unless you live in a coastal or low-lying area, an area that floods frequently, or in manufactured housing, it is unlikely that emergency managers will ask you

to evacuate. That means that it is important for you and your family to HAVE A PLAN that makes you as safe as possible in your home.

**Disaster prevention includes modifying your home to strengthen it against storms so that you can be as safe as possible.** It also includes having the supplies on hand to weather the storm. The suggestions provided here are only guides. You should use common sense in your disaster prevention.

## PREPARE YOUR PET

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### Before the Disaster –

- Contact your veterinarian or local humane society for information on preparing your pets for an emergency.**
- Make sure that your pets are current on their vaccinations.** Also make sure that you have proof of vaccinations; pet shelters may require proof of vaccines.
- Have a current photograph of your pets.**
- Keep a collar with identification on your pet at all times.** Have a leash on hand to control your pet.
- Have a properly sized carrier for each pet.** Carriers should be large enough for the animal to stand and turn around.
- Plan your evacuation strategy and don't forget your pet.** Specialized pet shelters, animal control shelters, veterinary clinics, and friends or family out of harm's way are all potential refuges for your pet during a disaster.
- If you plan to shelter your pet, work it into your evacuation route planning.**

### During the Disaster –

- Animals brought to a pet shelter are required to have:**
  - Proper identification collar and rabies tag.
  - Proper identification on all belongings.
  - A carrier or cage.
  - A leash.
  - An ample supply of food.
  - Water and food bowls.
  - Any necessary medications.
  - Specific care instructions.
  - Newspapers or trash bags for cleanup.
- Bring pets indoors well in advance of the storm.** Reassure them and remain calm.
- Pet shelters will be on a first come, first served basis.** Call ahead and determine availability.

### After the Disaster –

- Walk pets on a leash until they become reoriented to their home. Often familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and pets could easily be confused and become lost. Also, down power lines, wild animals brought in with high water, and debris can all pose a threat for animals after a disaster.
- If pets cannot be found after a disaster, contact the local animal control office to find out where lost animals can be recovered. Bring along a picture of your pet if possible.

- ❑ After a disaster, animals can become aggressive or defensive. Monitor their behavior.

### **Don't forget your pet when preparing a family disaster plan!**

- ❑ **Pet Disaster Supply Kit –**
  - Proper identification including vaccination records.
  - Ample supply of food and water.
  - A carrier or cage.
  - Medications.
  - Muzzle, collar, and leash.

## **SECURE YOUR HOME**

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### **Retrofitting Your Home**

The most important precaution you can take to reduce damage to your home and property is to protect the areas where wind can enter. According to recent wind technology research, it's important to strengthen the exterior of your house so wind and debris do not tear large openings in it.

One of the best ways to protect a home from damage in wind storms is to install impact resistant shutters over all large windows and glass doors. Not only do they protect doors and windows from wind-borne objects, but they can reduce damage caused by sudden pressure changes when a window or door is broken. Laminated window systems, plastic bonded to glass, are another option and are a particularly good choice for either building a new home or adding to an old one.

The easiest designs are those that simply cover the opening with a structural panel such as plywood. In past hurricanes, many homeowners upon returning home noticed their temporary plywood shutters blown off because they were not adequately fastened. If you have a wood-frame house, use adequate fasteners to attach the panels over the openings when a hurricane approaches. Have these temporary shutters stored and ready to use since building supply stores generally sell out of these materials quickly during a hurricane warning. If your home is made with concrete or brick, you will have to install anchoring devices well in advance.

The American Plywood Association (APA) and The Engineered Wood Association offer a series of hurricane shutter designs. Each design is available for \$1, or you can download all five designs from APA's website at no cost.

A great time to start securing or retrofitting your house is when you are making other improvements or adding an addition. Remember building codes reflect the lessons experts have learned from past catastrophes. Contact the local building code official in your area to find out what requirements are necessary for your home improvement projects.

### **Flood Insurance**

The National Flood Insurance Program is a pre-disaster flood mitigation and insurance protection program designed to reduce the escalating cost of disasters. The National Flood Insurance Program makes federally backed flood insurance available to residents and business owners.

Flood damage is **not** usually covered by homeowners insurance. **Do not make assumptions.** Check your policy.



For more information on the National Flood Insurance Program, call 1-888-CALL-FLOOD, ext. 455.

## AFTER A STORM

### ASSESS THE DAMAGE

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- Open all doors and windows so noxious smells and gases can escape.** Don't smoke indoors until everything has dried.
- Check for gas leaks.**
- Don't burn candles or incense.**
- If your home is open to the elements or your fear it will collapse, don't stay in it.** While you may be tempted to protect your belongings, it is not safe. Secure it as best as you can, get as many of your valuables out as possible, and find another place to stay. Depending on the storm's severity, additional refugee shelters will probably be open.
- Leave a telephone number where you can be reached.** Spray paint or write it on a piece of wood. If your house is severely damaged anyway, write it on the side of the house. Also, paint your exact address and insurance company for adjusters cruising the neighborhood. DO NOT write your policy number. That is an invitation for con artists to pose as you and steal your insurance money.
- The toilet will not work and may back up as the water level rises.** If necessary, use water from the bathtub to flush the toilet. Pour some bleach into the bowl after each use.
- Do not use electrical appliances until they are dry.**
- If water remains in your house, try to acquire a pump or bail by hand.** Then shovel out the mud, sand or silt. Take soaked rugs and carpets outside to dry, though you will still probably have to dispose of them, and disinfect floors.
- Hose off wet upholstered furniture to remove dirt.** Remove drawers and let them dry, but do not put wet wood furniture in the sun; it may warp.
- If plaster or plasterboard walls are wet, do not rub them.** Let them dry, brush off dirt, and wash walls with a mild soap solution.
- Wipe iron and steel furniture or ornaments with a kerosene soaked cloth to ward off rust.**
- Do not throw out damaged papers or art.** Professionals may be able to restore them.
- Soaked books can also be saved.** Dry in an upright position with the pages spread open. Then dust with cornstarch and stack to prevent wrinkled pages.
- The most deaths not directly linked to hurricanes are accidents after the storm.** If you are using power tools, chain saws, generators, or other power equipment, use common sense and follow basic safety rules.
- Clean your pool and lower it to its proper level.**
- When you put up television, phone, Internet, or other antennas again, watch for power lines.**
- Do not go to the coast to check on boats.** If your boat is in your yard, inspect it and document damage for insurance. Repair what you can and pump water out. The inside of boats cannot withstand water for very long. Check the fuel and electrical systems for damage.
- If the storm has deposited salt on cars, boats, or other exterior items and uncontaminated water is available, rinse the salt off.**
- Don't throw away plants.** Many can be saved.

- Right leaning or uprooted trees, staking if necessary.** Replace and firmly pack root soil, but don't apply fertilizer until tree has reestablished. Cut away jagged edges around damaged bark.
- Do not use pruning paint on spots where bark has been stripped.** Tree will heal better naturally.

## MORE INFORMATION

### LINKS

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- <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>** - Visit the National Hurricane Center website for up to date information on hurricane threats around your area.
- <http://www.ready.gov/america/index.html>** - Ready America provides information on preparing a disaster kit and making a family plan.
- <http://www.nefloridaredcross.org/>** - The Northeast Florida Red Cross has information available on preparing for a disaster.

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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- FEMA:** 1.800.621.FEMA
- Red Cross:** 904.358.8091
- JEA:** 904.665.7220
- Florida Power & Light:** 1.800.4.OUTAGE
- US Army Corp of Engineers:** 1.800.291.9405
- Florida Division of Emergency Management:** 850.413.9969
- The Blood Alliance:** 888.447.1479

